United Nations

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# FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General to meet United States President at Camp David.

- Security Council expresses deep concern about recent violence in Gaza, especially Israeli security forces' action against Palestinians.

- President of General Assembly meets with Israeli Foreign Minister and other Israeli officials in "frank exchange of views" on question of Palestine refugees in occupied territories.

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A United Nations official said today that Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar had accepted an invitation to meet with United States President George Bush at Camp David, tomorrow, 5 January, regarding the Gulf crisis.

Announcing the meeting, which will be a working luncheon, a United States press release made available at United Nations Headquarters said "the United Nations has played an instrumental role in building an international coalition against the aggression that Iraq has waged against Kuwait". It added that Mr. Perez de Cuellar had been a key actor in guiding the United Nations in that historic period.

The Secretary-General and the President will review the the Persian Gulf situation and the international community's efforts in implementing the United Nations resolutions.

In a separate development, the Secretary-General was asked today by correspondents about his meeting with Iraqi Ambassador to the United Nations Al-Anbari. Mr. Perez de Cuellar replied that Iraq was interested in starting a dialogue with the coalition led by the United States and wanted a peaceful outcome of the discussions in Geneva, next week [between United States Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz]. He said the Iraqi Ambassador had expressed hope that the Secretary-General would be of assistance to any peaceful solution of the problem.

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The Security Council has expressed deep concern about recent acts of violence in Gaza, especially actions by Israeli security forces against Palestinians, which have led to scores of casualties among those civilians.

Following a series of consultations, the Council held a short meeting early this morning on the situation in the occupied Arab territories at which the President of the Council, Bagbeni Adeito Nzengeya (Zaire), delivered a statement on behalf of its members, deploring the Israeli actions, particularly the shooting of civilians.

By the statement, the Council reaffirmed the applicability of the 1949 Geneva Convention -- which calls for protection of civilians during time of war -- to all the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem. It requested that Israel, the occupying Power, fully comply with the provisions of the Convention.

The Council also reaffirmed its position as expressed in resolution 681, adopted on 20 December last year, by which the Council asked the Secretary-General to make "new efforts" on an "urgent basis" to monitor and observe the situation of Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation.

Council members urged intensified efforts by all who can contribute to reducing conflict and tension in order to achieve peace in the area.

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The President of the General Assembly, Guido de Marco (Malta), currently on a five-day visit to the Middle East, met Wednesday with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and other Israeli officials in a "frank exchange of views" on the question of Palestine refugees in the occupied territories as well as on the situation in the Middle East, generally. The visit is the first such ever undertaken by a President of the General Assembly.

Accompanied by Commissioner-General Giorgio Ciacomelli, head of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Mr. de Marco then travelled to Gaza for a full day of visits to refugee camps and UNRWA installations in that territory. He toured Beach camp, on the coast, and the Rimal health centre, maintained by UNRWA and the Government of Sweden.

At noon, Mr. de Marco had lunch with Palestinian notables from the territory. He then met with representatives of the Gaza Fishermen Society -- which is assisted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) -- who outlined the impact on the fishing industry of the current political situation. The Assembly President's party also visited a physiotheraphy clinic at Nuseirat camp, and spoke with patients at the Al Ahli Arab hospital.

Before leaving Gaza, the President and the Commissioner-General laid wraths at the graves of United Nations peace-keeping soldiers buried at the British war cemetary there.

In the evening, President de Marco and Commissioner-General Giacomelli held a working dinner with members of the consular corps, with whom they discussed the situation in the occupied territories, the activities of UNRWA and the President's initial impressions of his visit to the refugee camps.

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